AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing includes a change to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet depicting Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 – change one of the numerals "31b" to -- 31d --

Replacement Sheet: Fig. 1

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

The presently claimed invention relates to a system and method for perforating a flexible web of papers by laser beams. One beneficial feature of the invention is the ability to vary the feed speed of the web of paper and to vary the level of power supplied to the laser beam generator between multiple levels (greater than zero) as a function of at least the paper web speed. That feature of the invention, explained in paragraphs 0026-0028 of the specification, is now recited in each of independent claims 1 and 22. The feature resists the occurrence of power overshoot and undesirable variations in hole size.

Neither of the Langhans and Lizotte et al. patents discloses or teaches to vary the level of power supplied to the laser generator between multiple levels greater than zero as a function of at least the paper web speed. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1 and 22 distinguish patentably over those patents.

Another beneficial feature of the invention relates to the ability to block all, none, or a part of each laser beam as a function of the number of beams being generated. As explained in paragraphs 0036-0037 of the specification, by blocking portions of the laser beams, the period of time that laser radiation is actually provided to the final focusing lenses can be made uniform regardless of the number of laser beams being generated.

That feature, recited in new claims 25, 26 and 29, is neither disclosed nor taught by either of the Langhans and Lizotte et al. patents.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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